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Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

Austria, Bhutan, Croatia, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden: draft resolution

Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Underlining the keen interest of the international community to keep abreast of the latest developments in science and technology of relevance to international security and disarmament and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Mindful of the need to regulate the transfer of technologies for peaceful uses, in accordance with relevant international obligations, to address the risk of proliferation by States or non-State actors,

Acknowledging the need to continue the exchange of technologies for peaceful uses, including in accordance with relevant international obligations,

Recalling the right of States to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, retain, transfer and use technologies for peaceful purposes, in accordance with relevant international obligations,

Cognizant of the discussions on developments in science and technology at the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and within the meetings of experts on science and technology under the 2018–2020 intersessional programme established by the 2017 Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,

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Cognizant also of the discussions in the Conference on Disarmament in 2018 under its subsidiary body 5,

Mindful of the discussions in other forums, such as the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities and on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in the United Nations disarmament machinery,

Noting the discussions on various dimensions of emerging technologies under the framework of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[1] and welcoming the adoption of the report of the 2018 session of the Group of Governmental Experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems, including the section on emerging commonalities, conclusions and recommendations,

Noting also the discussions within the United Nations and the specialized agencies on developments in the field of information and communications technologies, including in the context of international security,

Acknowledging that the accelerating pace of technological change necessitates a system-wide assessment of the potential impact of developments in science and technology on international security and disarmament, with due regard to avoiding duplication and complementing efforts already under way in United Nations entities and in the framework of the relevant international conventions,

Taking note of the reference in the agenda for disarmament of the Secretary-General to his report on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts,[2]

Noting the discussions on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts in the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters during its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions, in 2018,

1. *Invites* Member States to continue efforts to apply developments in science and technology for disarmament-related purposes, including the verification of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation instruments, and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to remain vigilant in understanding new and emerging developments in science and technology that could imperil international security, and underlines the importance of Member States engaging with experts from industry, the research community and civil society in addressing this challenge;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts,[2] in which he highlights recent developments in science and technology, including in artificial intelligence and autonomous systems, biology and chemistry, advanced missile and missile-defence technologies, space-based technologies, electromagnetic technologies and materials technologies, and takes note of the section containing submissions from Member States giving their views on the matter;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session an updated report on recent developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1342, No. 22495.
[2] A/73/177.

efforts, with an annex containing submissions from Member States giving their views on the matter;

5. *Encourages* the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to continue its discussions on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene, within existing budgetary resources and from voluntary contributions, a one-day focused conference in Geneva in 2019, to be organized by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, on the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament, in order to facilitate dialogue among relevant stakeholders on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament efforts;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".